

VZCZCXRO2633
RR RUEHPA
DE RUEHOS #0010 0071616
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 071616Z JAN 10
FM AMCONSUL LAGOS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1162
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA 0709
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RHMFISS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE
RHMFISS/COMUSNAVEUR NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 000010

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/31/2029

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [KCRM](#) [NI](#)

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN WORKERS KILLED AT CHEVRON SITE

Classified By: Consul General Donna M. Blair for Reasons 1.4 (B,D)

¶1. (SBU) On January 4, two Nigerians working at the construction site of Chevron's Escravos Gas-to-Liquid plant in Delta State were killed by Nigerian security forces following an argument at a checkpoint that "got out of hand," according to Nigerian press reports on January 5. The killings allegedly triggered a short riot which caused some destruction.

¶2. (C) Chevron spokesman Femi Odumabo confirmed the incident to CG Lagos, but noted that the victims were construction workers hired by a subcontractor of Hyundai Heavy Industries, not Chevron itself. He said that the reports of destruction were greatly exaggerated and that there had been no impact on construction. The Warri Branch Chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria, Ajayi Olawole, separately confirmed to CG Lagos the two fatalities and also stressed that the victims were construction not oil and gas workers. No Americans were involved in the incident.

¶3. (C) Odumabo said that Chevron is investigating the incident, but it appears that the dispute broke out over bus access to a gate controlled by Nigerian security forces when the unarmed workers were fired upon. Odumabo underscored that as a company Chevron had no control over Nigerian security forces. Delta State, where the incident occurred, is also investigating the incident, according to Governor Uduaghan's Special Advisor on Petroleum Affairs Gbemisi Akpere. No one has yet been arrested or charged in the incident.

¶4. (SBU) COMMENT: We are still trying to determine if the involved security forces were police or military. Both organizations have a reputation for excessive use of force. At this point, the incident appears isolated and unlikely to spread to other areas. END COMMENT.

¶5. (U) ConGen Lagos coordinated this telegram with Embassy Abuja.
BLAIR